



Rotary Club of Pearl River, P.O. Box 252, Pearl River, NY 10965  
District 7210 - Region 8 - Zone 32 - Club #4982 – Charter Date December 12, 1935

[www.rotaryclubofpearlriver.org](http://www.rotaryclubofpearlriver.org)

## **CAROL McGRATH - President - 2011-2012** **"Reach Within to Embrace Humanity"**

Rotary Club  
Of  
Pearl River

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### **Rotary Meeting: Greenhouse Cafe - Pearl River, New York**

**Date:** February 23, 2012 **President Carol** opened the meeting @ 12:15

**Pledge:** Cesar Tejeda

**Invocation:** Dr Ed Fisher: Dr Ed reminded the club through a prayer of how kindness, sharing, generosity, optimism, and caring for others make the world a better place. These are all Rotary values that the Pearl River Club has always tried to display through our actions. We were just reminded of these important and necessary ideals through the prayer read by Dr. Ed to our Rotarian Club.

**Visiting Rotarians:** Some of our busier Rotarians were thought to be “visiting” our meeting at the Greenhouse! Great to see their faces! **Guests:** None

**Birthdays:** Mr. Larry Vergine our distinguished member from the “Noonan’s” Party house!

**Anniversaries:** None were admitted to however, I hope nobody forgot their date?

**Special Ceremony:** For 2 PR Rotarians who have generously donated time & money to the Rotary Foundation they earned a **Paul Harris “Honorary Pin”** for their exceptional participation and Gifts to the Rotary Foundation. The Rotarians are: **Mr. Steve Pantleakis and Mr. Ben Shifteh.**

**Announcements:** 1) Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - Soap Box Derby Meeting to be held at Pres. Elect John Buonadonna home. 2) March 02<sup>nd</sup> – Dominican Rotoract Club (Fundraiser) Information will be presented by Madam President Carol as soon as the information becomes available. 3) March 06<sup>th</sup> – Rotary Board Meeting to also be held at the John Buonadonna home. This house is going to be a busy place! 4) March 10-22<sup>nd</sup> – Dr. Ed Fisher goes to Guatemala on behalf of our Rotary Club and the District to help the children enjoy a better help through his Pediatric Dentist Talents. 5) March 14<sup>th</sup> ? - TBD Fellowship for the Rotary Club to be held at the Defiant Brewery. 6) March 18<sup>th</sup> – Gene & Martha Erickson are being honored at a Gala hosted by the Historical Society of Rockland County to be held at the View Restaurant in Piermont. Tickets for Cocktail Hour, Dinner, and Awards priced at a Donation of \$100.00 per person.

**Rotary Challenge:** Once again arranged through the Past District Governor Jeffrey Keahon: **Please Note:** For the record all judgments, considerations, rules, influences, and conditions of the contest are at the sole discretion of the “Master of Ceremonies” Mr. Jeffrey.  
**Question:** Please name the 4 founding people who met in 1905 to start the Rotary

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The **FOUR WAY TEST** of things we think, say, and do: 1. Is it the **TRUTH**? 2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned? 3. Will it build **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**? 4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Business Club which was started as an idea to foster fellowship, friendship among the members. This Club was also expected to boost business participation within the Rotary group. The **lovely Ms. Ann Taylor** was selected from a large group of I-Pad and I-Phone Google participants researching the question & history of the Rotary. **Ann Taylor** ended up winning **107 dollars** from the “Master of Ceremonies” guessing the answer!

**Queen of Hearts:** Was orchestrated by our own maestro **Dr. Edward Fisher** who shuffled the raffle ticketing so the winning number was chosen by Hans Kohl who represented Me, Myself and I at his table & **Whala !!** The **Queen of Hearts** was chosen to the dismay of the entire room and his seating table for a cash haul of **\$460.00 dollars**.

**Happy Bucks:** Many buckaroos for the **Valentine’s Day brunch!** Along with many dollars for the Paul Harris honor recipients **Mr. “Stevie P” and a real jewel Mr. Ben !!**

**Program:** Brought to our Club today by the talented Editor of “Our Town” Newspaper our own club member **Mr. Art Aldrich**. Art in his spare time teaches and advises students, Gov’t officials and others on Municipal guidelines along with collective bargaining issues. In a follow-up to a previous program on the country of China and its economic standing in the world, Arthur presented information on the leading province in the country – **Chongqing**.

Art met with a **delegation of Municipal Officials, Communist Party Officials and Labor representatives at the Orangetown Town Hall**, along with the Orangetown representatives to discuss the collective bargaining process.

**Some interesting Facts:** **A)** The Chinese culture is the oldest in World History going back over 5,000 years. **B)** The Chinese approach to ideas, politics and their trade dealings with the Western/European cultures is to assimilate the best ideas into the Chinese School of thought. **C)** The province of **Chongqing** is the **fastest growing** province of China in both **population and economic** growth. This **Chongqing province** is modernizing its capitalistic economy while still being connected to its past ancient culture and values. **D)** The businesses still rely on a **sweat shop mentality with mandatory overtime, low poverty rated wages along with which the Government and their businesses still continue to exploit its workers**. Art relayed his conversations with this delegation where there is an obvious divide between the Eastern/European business model & governmental procedures to the Far Eastern Chinese **concepts of assimilation**. These ideas represent the Chinese way of economic and Industrial development. **E)** Scholars have some factual evidence that the **Chinese discovered the America’s** with its large Navy in 1406-1407 under the guidance of an Admiral Ho. This fleet comprised over **62 ships, 28,000 naval personnel and was estimated to of had 7 major fleet voyages**. All of this was accomplished prior to the 1492 voyage of Columbus in 3 smaller ships on his discovery route across the Atlantic Ocean. **F)** **Finally**, the country of China along with its major province of Chongqing are growing and developing into a dominant super power that is growing at a yearly rate of **8.5% & 9% of GNP**. The Chinese seek to assimilate to the order of what they seek to dominate. Are the United States and the increasing debt to China being baited into assimilation? Only time will tell if this will happen! A Game of Strategy between the United States & China that the Chinese are economically winning!

**Thank You:** Art Aldrich for the great and informative program brought to our Rotary Club.